

## REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 2-12 are allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention including some of the features found in allowed claim 8.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Gilbert et al. (U.S. 6,005,847) (Gilbert).

Gilbert describes terminal devices 100, 102, or 104 in FIG. 1, however Gilbert fails to describe that any of the terminal devices perform a communications control method as described in applicant's claim 1.

Specifically, a communication line control method according to claim 1 is performed in one communication terminal device. The one communication terminal device is including a line control unit and a distributed control module and processing only the specified call determined by said line control unit without being aware of the plurality of communication lines in said distributed control module. However, none of the terminal devices (100, 102, or 104 in FIG. 1) in the reference perform the communication line control method as recited in applicant's claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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